

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 4, 8, 11, and 14-27 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a controller detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function,  
displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected, and  
issuing a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program;  
wherein said search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword is issued with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized~~.
2. (previously presented) The computer as claimed in claim 1, wherein said search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword is issued with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets while the characters of the candidate character string are being input until a define instruction is made to define and finalize the input characters of the candidate character string.
3. (previously presented) The computer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller ends a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define and finalize input characters of the candidate character string.
4. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a controller detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by the

character input function,

displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected,  
and

starting a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or  
an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter;

wherein said program is started while characters of the candidate character string are  
being input by a user ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and  
finalized.~~

5. (previously presented) The computer as claimed in claim 4, wherein the controller  
registers data of a corresponding relationship of the keyword and the corresponding attribute  
value, according to an interactive process.

6. (previously presented) The computer as claimed in claim 4, wherein the controller  
displays a program which cannot be started by the keyword on the menu screen with a format  
which indicates that the program cannot be started.

7. (previously presented) The computer as claimed in claim 4, wherein the controller  
ends a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define  
instruction is made to define and finalize input characters of the candidate character string.

8. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a controller detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by  
the character input function,

displaying a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword  
when the keyword is detected, and

starting the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is  
issued using the menu screen;

wherein the program is started while characters of the candidate character string are  
being input by a user ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and  
finalized.~~

9. (previously presented) The computer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the controller  
registers data of a corresponding relationship of the keyword and the program, according to an

interactive process.

10. (previously presented) The computer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the controller ends a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define and finalize input characters of the candidate character string.

11. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a controller detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function,

displaying a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected, and

starting a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program;

wherein said conversion program is started while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user.~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

12. (previously presented) The computer as claimed in claim 11, wherein said controller displays a conversion program which cannot convert the keyword on the menu screen with a format which indicates that the program cannot convert.

13. (previously presented) The computer as claimed in claim 11, wherein the controller ends a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define and finalize input characters of the candidate character string.

14. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a controller detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function,

a display section displaying a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected, and

an executing section executing a process using the keyword depending on an item selected on the menu screen;

wherein said process is executed while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user.~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and~~

~~finalized.~~

15. (currently amended) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by a character input function;

displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said detecting a keyword; and

issuing a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program;

wherein said search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword is issued with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user.~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

16. (currently amended) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by a character input function;

displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and

starting a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter;

wherein said program is started while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user.~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

17. (currently amended) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by a character input function;

displaying a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and

starting the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen;

wherein said program is started while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user, ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

18. (currently amended) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by a character input function;

displaying a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and

starting a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program;

wherein said conversion program is started while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user, ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

19. (currently amended) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by a character input function;

displaying a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and

executing a process using the keyword depending on an item selected on the menu screen;

wherein said process is executed while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user, ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

20. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program, comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a candidate

character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

an issuing procedure causing the computer to issue a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program;

wherein said issuing procedure causes the computer to issue the search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user.~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

21. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

a starting procedure causing the computer to start a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter;

wherein said starting procedure causes the computer to start the program which is selected while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user.~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

22. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

a starting procedure causing the computer to start the program corresponding to the

keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen;

wherein said starting procedure causes the computer to start the program corresponding to the keyword while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

23. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting program causing the computer to detect a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

a starting procedure causing the computer to start a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program;

wherein said starting procedure causes the computer to start the conversion program while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

24. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

an executing procedure causing the computer to execute a process using the keyword depending on an item selected on the menu screen;

wherein said executing procedure causes the computer to execute the process while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

25. (currently amended) A method for processing, comprising:

receiving a candidate character string input from a user;  
selecting, by a processor, at least one program while characters of the candidate character string are being input by the user; ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized~~; and  
displaying output from the program;  
wherein the at least one program is selected according to the characters being input by the user as the characters are being input.

26. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a controller detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input into a word processing application by the character input function,  
displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected, and  
issuing a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program;  
wherein said search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword is issued with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets as the candidate character string is being input by a user; ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~

27. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a controller detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input into a word processing application by the character input function,  
displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected, and  
starting a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter;  
wherein said program is started while characters of the candidate character string are being input by a user; ~~until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.~~